

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ABUD, UN

SUBJ: UN BUDGET: UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION PLANS
EXPANSION OF UN INFORMATION CENTERS

REF: USUN 1149, APRIL 5, 1974

SUMMARY: UN CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (CPPI) WILL MEET MARCH 10 AND 11 AND DISCUSS PLANS FOR UN INFORMATION CENTERS, WHICH WILL ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO 1976/77 UN BUDGET. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT REQUEST SELECTED POSTS TO SUBMIT EVALUATIONS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CENTERS FOR USE AT CPPI MEETING OR AT LATER REVIEWS OF UN PROGRAM BUDGET. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAS 4 AND 5 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. WORKING GROUP OF UN CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (CPPI) MET FEB 3, 4 AND 5 TO DISCUSS UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPI) RESPONSE TO ECOSOC RES 1806 (LV). MEETING ACCOMPLISHED LITTLE EXCEPT TO REVIEW RATHER ANODYNE INFORMAL WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY OPI DIRECTOR AKATANI, US REP (SHELDON), IN BRIEF STATEMENT, CAUTIONED OPI NOT TO PLAN TOO GRANDIOSELY AND EXPENSIVELY.

2. AT WORKING GROUP MEETING IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT FULL CPPI WOULD MEET MARCH 10 AND 11, 1975 AND WOULD DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR UN INFORMATION CENTERS. THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT LAST YEAR'S CPPI MEETING (REFTEL) AND A COPY OF INFORMAL DISCUSSION PAPER
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SUBMITTED TO THAT MEETING WAS POUCHED FEB 7 TO SOUTHWORTH

(IO/UNBAPS). AS WILL BE SEEN FROM THAT PAPER, OPI IS TRYING TO MAKE A CASE FOR INCREASING NUMBER OF CENTERS, EXPANDING THEIR STAFFS AND UPGRADING THEIR DIRECTORS, ALL OF WHICH WOULD ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE OPI PROGRAM BUDGET FOR THE 1976/77 BIENNium. OPI DISCUSSION PAPER FOR MARCH 1975 SESSION OF CPPI HAS NOT YET BEEN CIRCULATED.

3. MISSION BELIEVES THAT WE WOULD BE MUCH BETTER PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT AND TO MAKE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IF WE HAD SPECIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE EVALUATING EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESENT OPERATIONS OF SEVERAL OF 51 UN INFORMATION CENTERS PRESENTLY IN EXISTENCE.

4. FOR FOREGOING REASONS, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT SEND A CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION TO SELECTED POSTS WHERE INFORMATION CENTERS ARE LOCATED (A COMPLETE LIST WAS POUCHED FEB 7 TO SOUTHWORTH) REQUESTING A FRANK EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CENTERS AND THEIR PERSONNEL FROM POINT OF VIEW OF US AND UN OBJECTIVES. SUCH EVALUATIONS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF THEY COULD REACH USUN BY MARCH 7, 1975, I.E. IN TIME FOR NEXT CPPI MEETING. BUT EVEN IF THEY CANNOT MEET THAT DEADLINE, THEY WOULD STILL BE USEFUL FOR VARIOUS REVIEWS OF OPI SECTION OF UN REGULAR PROGRAM BUDGET TO TAKE PLACE DURING SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL OF 1975.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT SEND A CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 4 ABOVE.
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